

REMARKS

Claims 12-96 are pending in the present application. In the present Amendment, claims 12-82 and 95-96 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of the present patent application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The rejection of claims 12-23, 27-29, 33-38, 40, 42-47, 49, 51-55, 59-82, 95 and 96 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, is respectfully traversed. However, in view of the amendments to the claims, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is now moot.

The rejection of claims 12-82, 95 and 96 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kodama et al. (US 5,747,579) in view of JP08108403, DE2438365, JP00180462 and Morrow et al. WO 97/47190 is respectfully traversed. However, in view of the amendments to the claims, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is now moot.

The statement in the office action that claims 83-94 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in the office action, is not understood. Applicants agree that claims 83-94 are clearly in allowable form. Further, there are no rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, concerning claims 83-94, in the office action. The undersigned attorney has closely reviewed claims 83-94 and there is no doubt that these claims are allowable over the prior art and meet all of the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that a Notice of Allowability should be issued with respect to claims 83-94.


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PH96038

Reconsideration of the present application and a favorable action concerning claims 83-94 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
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